THE

CRISIS.

NUMBER IV. *To be continued Weekly.*

SATURDAY, *February* 11, 1775. [*Price Two-pence Halfpenny.*

Ye CONSPIRATORS againſt the LIBERTIES of Mankind at St. JAMES's, in St. STEPHEN's CHAPEL, the HOUSE of LORDS, or amongſt the BENCH of SATANICAL BISHOPS; you muſt ſurely think there is no GOD to JUDGE, nor HELL to RECEIVE you; or, you could never be ſo far ABANDONED as to ſtain your HANDS, and conſent to DYE the PLAINS of AMERICA with the INNOCENT BLOOD of her INHABITANTS.

Nero had ſuch Inſtruments of Slaughter.

THE ſteady and uniform Perſeverance in a regular Plan of DESPOTISM, ſince the Commencement of this Reign, makes it evident to the meaneſt Capacity, that a Deſign was formed, (and it has with too much Succeſs been carried into Execution) for ſubverting the Religion, Laws, and Conſtitution of this Kingdom, and eſtabliſh upon the Ruins of PUBLIC LIBERTY, an arbitrary Syſtem of Government: in a Word, the Deſtruction of this Kingdom will ſoon be effected by a Prince of the Houſe of *Brunſwick*.

The

The BLOODY RESOLUTION has paſſed the Houſe of Commons and the Houſe of Lords to addreſs our preſent HUMANE, GENTLE Sovereign, to give Directions for ENFORCING the cruel and unjuſt Edicts of the laſt Parliament againſt the *Americans*. His Majeſty poſſeſſing Principles which nothing can equal but the GOODNESS of his Heart, will no doubt, give immediate Orders for carrying EFFECTUALLY into Execution the MASSACRE in *America*; eſpecially as he is to be SUPPORTED in polluting the Earth with BLOOD, with the LIVES and FORTUNES of his *faithful* Butchers, the Lords and Commons; would to God they ONLY were to fall a Sacrifice in this UNNATURAL CIVIL WAR.

The Day of Trial is at Hand; it is Time to prove the Virtue and rouſe the Spirit of the People of *England*; the Proſpect is too dreadful, it is too melancholy to admit of farther Delay.

The Lord Mayor of London ought immediately to call a Common Hall for the Purpoſe of taking the Senſe of his Fellow Citizens, at this ALARMING CRISIS, upon preſenting a Remonſtrance to the Throne; couched in Terms, that might do Honour to the City, as the Firſt and moſt Powerful in the World, and to them as Men determined to be FREE; in Terms that might ſtrike CONVICTION into his Majeſty's Breaſt; and TERROR into the Souls of his Miniſters: this is not a Time for *Compliments*, nor ſhould Tyrants, or, the Inſtruments of Tyranny, ever be complimented.

The Merchants of London, it is to be hoped, and the whole commercial Intereſt of England, will exert themſelves upon this great Occaſion; by ſending to the Throne ſpirited and pointed Remonſtrances, worthy of Engliſhmen; by noble and generous SUBSCRIPTIONS, and in every other Manner, give all the RELIEF, and all the Aſſiſtance in their Power, to their oppreſſed and injured Fellow Subjects in America.

Let them heartily join the Americans, and ſee whether TYRANNY and LAWLESS POWER, or, REASON, JUSTICE, HEAVEN, TRUTH, and LIBERTY, will prevail.

Let them, together with the Gentlemen of landed Property, who muſt greatly Suffer by this unnatural CIVIL WAR, make a glorious ſtand againſt the Enemies of PUBLIC FREEDOM, and the conſtitutional Rights of the Colonies; for, with the ruin of America, muſt be involved that of England.

Let

Let them in plain Terms, declare their own Strength, and the POWER of the People, a Power, that has hitherto withſtood the united Efforts of Fraud and Tyranny; a Power, to which all Kings have ever owed their Crowns; a Power, which raiſes them to a Throne; and when unworthy of their DELEGATED TRUST, can pull them down.

Let them declare to the World, they will never be ſo baſe and cowardly, as QUIETLY to ſee any *Part* of their Fellow Subjects, BUTCHERED, or ENSLAVED, either in England or America, to anſwer the Purpoſe of EXALTED Villainy; and by that Means, become the *deteſted* Inſtruments of their OWN DESTRUCTION.

Let them declare to the World, they are not yet ripe for SLAVERY, that their Forefathers made a noble Reſiſtance, and obtained a deciſive Victory over TYRANNY and LAWLESS POWER, when the *Stuarts* reigned; that they are determined to do THEMSELVES JUSTICE, and not to ſuffer any farther Attacks upon their FREEDOM, from the preſent Sovereign, who is exceedingly deſirous, as well as ambitious, to deſtroy the Liberties of Mankind; but that they do INSIST upon a RESTORATION of their OWN violated Rights, and the Rights of Britiſh America.

Let them enter into an ASSOCIATION for the Preſervation of their Lives, Rights, Liberties, and Privileges; and reſolve at once to bring the whole Legion of *public Traitors*, who have wickedly entered into a Conſpiracy to deſtroy the dear bought Rights of this FREE NATION to condign Puniſhment, for their paſt and preſent diabolical Proceedings, which have already ſtained the Land with Blood, and threaten Deſtruction to the human Race.

A few ſpirited Reſolutions from the City of *London*, and the whole Body of Merchants of *England*, would ſtrike Terror into the Souls of thoſe Miſcreants, the Authors of theſe dreadful public Miſchiefs.

The grand Principle of Self-preſervation, which is the firſt and fundamental Law of Nature, calls aloud for ſuch Exertions of public Spirit; the Security of the Nation depends upon it; Juſtice and the Preſervation of our own, and the Lives of our fellow Subjects in *America* demand it; the very being of the Conſtitution

Conſtitution, makes it neceſſary, and whatever is neceſſary to the public Safety, muſt be juſt.

The preſent Conſpirators againſt the Peace and Happineſs of Mankind, ought to know, that no Subterfuges, no knaviſh Subtilties, no Evaſions, no Combinations, nor pretended Commiſſions, ſhall be able to ſcreen or protect them from public Juſtice. They ought to know that the PEOPLE, can follow them thro' all their Labyrinths, and doubling Meanders; a Power, confined by no Limitations but of public Juſtice, and the public Good; a Power that does not always FOLLOW Precedents, but MAKES them; a Power which has this for its Principle, that extraordinary and unprecedented Villaines; ought to have extraordinary and unprecedented Puniſhments.

TO THE

Officers, Soldiers, and Seamen,

Who may be employed to butcher their Relations, Friends, and Fellow Subjects in America.

You can neither be ignorant of, nor unacquainted with the arbitrary Steps, that the preſent King, ſupported by an abandoned Miniſtry, and a venal Set of proſtituted Lords and Commons, is now perſuing to overturn the ſacred Conſtitution of the Britiſh Empire, which he had SWORN TO PRESERVE.

You are not, or will not long be ignorant, that the King, the Lords and Commons, have, (to ſatiate their Revenge againſt a few Individuals) declared the whole People of America to be in a State of *Rebellion*, only becauſe they have openly avowed their Reſolution to ſupport their Charters, Rights and Liberties, againſt the ſecret Machinations of deſigning Men who would deſtroy them: and you are fixed upon as the Inſtruments of their Deſtruction. However, I entertain too good an Opinion of you, to believe there is one TRUE ENGLISHMAN, who will undertake the BLOODY Work. Men without Fortunes, Principles or Connections,

Connections, may indeed, handle their Arms in a deſperate Cauſe, to oblige a Tyrant, or Monſter in human Shape: But Men of Family and Fortune, or, of honeſt Principles, I hope could never be prevailed upon to ſheath their Swords in the Bowels of their Countrymen. Engliſhmen, ſurely cannot be found to execute ſo diabolical a Deed, to imbrue their Hands in innocent Blood, and fight againſt their Friends and Country; Actions which muſt brand them with perpetual Marks of Reproach and Infamy.

O! my Countrymen, let neither private Intereſt, nor Friendſhip; neither Relations, nor Connections, prevail with, or induce you to obey (as you muſt anſwer at the laſt Day, before the aweful Judge of the World, for the Blood that will be wantonly and cruelly Spilt) the murderous Orders of an inhuman Tyrant; who, to gratify his luſt of Power, would lay waſte the World. No, rather enter into a ſolemn League, and join with the reſt of your Countrymen, to oppoſe the preſent Meaſures of Covernment, planned for our RUIN.

When your Country calls, then ſtand forth and defend the Cauſe of Liberty, deſpiſe the Degeneracy of the Age, the Venality of the Times, and hand Freedom down to Poſterity; that your Children may ſmiling bleſs, not curſe your war-like Reſolution. To die glorioufly fighting for the Laws and Liberties of your Country, is honourable, and would deſerve a Crown of Martyrdom; to die fighting againſt it, is Infamy; and you would for ever deſerve the heavieſt Curſes and Execration.

I hope neither you nor the Iriſh have forgot the ſhameful Inſults you have received from the King, ever ſince the Concluſion of the laſt War; you have been deſpiſed, neglected, and treated with Contempt; while a Parcel of beggarly Scotchmen only, have been put into every Place of Profit and Truſt, in the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, in England and America, and the Preference has, of Honours and Promotions, been conſtantly given to thoſe People, nay even to Rebels; and ſome who have ſerved in the French Service.

Be aſſured, if you can be prevailed upon to butcher, or enſlave your fellow Subjects, and to ſet up an arbitrary Power on the Ruins of public Liberty, that your Subſiſtance would ſoon be reduced to the miſerable Pittance of foreign Troops; and you with the ſurviving Subjects of England and America, be reduced

reduced to the miſerable Condition of being ruled by an Army of Scotch Janizaries, aſſiſted by *Roman Catholics*.

Let every Engliſh and Iriſh Officer, Soldier, and Seaman, ſeriouſly Weigh theſe things; and then if they are Valiant, Courageous, Magnanimous and Free, like their Forefathers; if they are True to their King and their Country; if they Value their Religion, Laws, Lives, Liberties, Families, and Poſterity; no Conſideration can prevail with them to engage againſt the Americans, in an Inhuman Bloody CIVIL WAR.

Let every Man then, who is really and truly a Proteſtant, who wiſhes well to his Conntry, and the Rights of Mankind; lay aſide his Prejudices, and conſider the Cauſe of *America*, and her Succeſs in this Struggle for Freedom, as a Thing of the laſt Conſequence to England, upon which OUR Salvation depends, for the preſent plan of Royal Deſpotiſm is a Plan of *GENERAL RUIN*. I ſay let us all *SPEEDILY* unite and endeavour to defend them from their OPEN, and ourſelves from our own ſecret and domeſtic Enemies, and if any are luke-warm in this great public Cauſe, at this Time of emminent Danger; let them be made an Example of *TREACHERY* and *COWARDICE*: that the preſent Generation may deteſt and abhor them, and Poſterity declaim againſt and Curſe them, as unnatural Monſters, who would deſtroy the Human Race.

To the People of ENGLAND and AMERICA.

Sometime in the middle of *March* will be publiſhed, Price 1s. 6d. in Quarto, on a fine Paper and new Type,

The Prophecy of RUIN, a Poem.

Enſe velut ſtricto, quoties Lucilius ardens
Infremuit, rubet auditor cui frigida mens eſt.
Criminibus, tacite ſudant præcordia culpa.

JUVENAL.

Sharp as a Sword Lucilius *drew his Pen,*
And ſtruck with panic Terror, guilty Men;
At his juſt Strokes, the harden'd Wretch would Start;
Feel the cold Sweat, and tremble *at the Heart.*

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